

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. In an improved vehicle with a passenger compartment forward and an open rear portion, the improvement comprising:
a first tailgate disposed proximal an enclosed rear portion of said passenger compartment and, at least in its majority and when in a vertical orientation, forward of the open rear portion of the improved vehicle, and said first tailgate may be opened so that it is in a horizontal orientation and disposed, at least in its majority, internal to a tailgate recess in a floor of the open rear portion.
2. The improved vehicle of claim 1 which further comprises a passenger compartment rear seat disposed, at least in its majority, proximal to and forward of a forward portion of said first tailgate as seen when said first tailgate is in its vertical orientation, wherein said rear passenger seat, when used for passenger seating, is composed of vertically and horizontally oriented seating elements, wherein support portions of said vertically and horizontally oriented seating elements are disposed distal from their passenger seating surfaces and are composed, at least primarily, of rigid materials, and wherein said rear passenger seat elements may be reoriented such that their support portions are upward to thereby form portions of a horizontal floor that extends rearward to proximal a second tailgate disposed proximal a rear end of the open rear portion of the vehicle.
3. The improved vehicle of claim 2 wherein said horizontally oriented seating element support portion has a lip on its support portion such that said lip acts

to prevent cargo from sliding forward when the support portion is acting as a floor extension.

4. The improved vehicle of claim 2 wherein said vertically and horizontally oriented seating elements rotate about pivots.
5. The improved vehicle of claim 1 wherein said first tailgate has a retractable window wherein said retractable window is retractable into said first tailgate.
6. The improved vehicle of claim 1 which further comprises a first tailgate cover that serves as a cover for the tailgate recess when the first tailgate is in its vertical orientation.
7. The improved vehicle of claim 1 which further comprises a first tailgate cover that covers the first tailgate when it is in its horizontal orientation.
8. The improved vehicle of claim 1 which further comprises a multi-element retractable cover, said multi-element retractable cover proximal passenger compartment height and capable of covering a rear open portion of the improved vehicle.
9. The improved vehicle of claim 8 wherein said multi-element retractable cover further comprises a spacer capable of joining two or more portions of the multi-element retractable cover.
10. The improved vehicle of claim 8 wherein said multi-element retractable cover further comprises means for two or more portions of the multi-element cover, as seen in a transverse vertical plane of the vehicle, to support each other.
11. The improved vehicle of claim 8 wherein said multi-element retractable cover further comprises means for two or more portions of the multi-element cover,

as seen in a transverse vertical plane of the vehicle, to support each other by means of a sliding track.

12. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 8 which further comprises a powered actuator capable of extending and retracting the improved vehicle rear portion cover.
13. In an improved vehicle rear portion cover the improvement comprising:
said improved vehicle rear portion cover proximal a height of a passenger cab portion of the vehicle and said vehicle rear portion cover comprised of at least two elements with at least one of said elements retractable to thereby render a rear portion of said vehicle open over at least a portion of its length, and said elements having a seal disposed to prevent water leakage into the rear portion when said retractable cover is extended to cover said rear portion.
14. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 13 wherein said seal includes a compressible element.
15. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 13 which further comprises a leakage duct to direct any leakage passing through said seal away from the rear portion.
16. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 13 which further comprises a spacer capable of joining two or more portions of the improved vehicle rear portion cover.
17. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 13 wherein separate portions of the vehicle rear portion cover, as seen in a transverse vertical plane of the vehicle, support each other.

18. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 13 wherein said separate portions of the vehicle rear portion cover, as seen in a transverse vertical plane of the vehicle, support each other by means of a sliding track.
19. The improved vehicle rear portion cover of claim 13 which further comprises a powered actuator capable of extending and retracting the improved vehicle rear portion cover.
20. In an improved vehicle with a forward passenger compartment and a cargo area disposed rearward of the forward passenger area, the improvement comprising:

a first tailgate disposed between the passenger compartment and the cargo area, said first tailgate rotatable rearward and downward into a first tailgate recess in a cargo area floor, passenger seating proximal to and forward of the first tailgate, said passenger seating composed of a rear vertical member capable of rotating forward to form an extension to the cargo area floor and a forward horizontal member capable of rotating forward to form an extension to the cargo area floor.
21. The improved vehicle of claim 20 wherein said first tailgate includes a retractable window.
22. The improved vehicle of claim 20 which further comprises a rotatable cover capable of covering the first tailgate recess in the cargo area floor.
23. The improved vehicle of claim 20 which further comprises a second tailgate disposed proximal an aft end of the cargo area.

24. The improved vehicle of claim 20 wherein said second tailgate includes a retractable window.

25. The improved vehicle of claim 20 which further comprises a retractable cover that, when extended rearward, covers the cargo area and wherein said retractable cover is proximal a height of the passenger compartment.